## MARINE CORPS RECRUITING STATION JACKSONVILLE COMMANDING OFFICER'S SEXUAL ASSAULT POLICY STATEMENT

Sexual assault is a crime. This crime is a complete and total contradiction to the core values of honor, courage, and commitment which we have dedicated ourselves to as Marines. It strikes at the good order and discipline of the unit and has significant negative impacts on our ability to execute our mission. Most importantly, sexual assault violates a victim's dignity and basic rights to personal security and freedom, leaving lasting emotional, psychological and physical scars. This crime is not restricted to any gender, race, or age.



Sexual assault will not be tolerated. Likewise, failure to report or ignoring sexual assault allegations will not be tolerated. Sexual assault is defined as intentional sexual contact, characterized by the use of force, physical threat of force, abuse of authority, or when the victim does not or cannot consent. Where cause exists, appropriate legal and/or administrative action will be taken against those who commit sexual assault.

Victims of sexual assault will be treated with the utmost sensitivity, dignity, and respect and will be afforded access to appropriate medical, psychological, and social services. Additionally, care will be taken to ensure that the identity of a victim of sexual assault is released only to those very few key individuals with a need to know. Victims of sexual assault should be made comfortable to come forward with their allegations even when collateral misconduct may have been involved. In accordance with the reference, victims may also choose to make a restricted report and their choice will be honored to the fullest extent.

I expect every member of RS Jacksonville to become familiar with this policy. If any person becomes aware of a sexual assault, they shall immediately contact authorities, their chain of command, and the Recruiting Station Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Victim Advocate. I further expect that every Marine continue to uphold our core values to prevent sexual assaults from occurring and protect their fellow Marines and civilians from becoming victims of such assaults.

If you or someone you know needs immediate assistance involving sexual assault, please call the 24 hour Sexual Assault Support Line at (843) 228 – 3599.

Keep charging, take action, and recruit excellence at the speed of war.

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Major, U.S. Marine Corps

Commanding Officer, Recruiting Station Jacksonville